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IAF is glowing...

cloud cover. Though rains cut short the show, we enjoyed every bit of the show," said Vinay Kumar, a student of class 11.

Later, the Lt Governor felicitated the defence personnel and the members of the Aerobatic and Skydiving teams to mark the occasion.

Air Vice Marshal PK Vohra, AOC J&K, Ladakh; Air Commodore SS Rawat, AOC, Air Force Station, Jammu; Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh BR Sharma, State Election Commissioner J&K; senior officer of IAF, Civil and Police Administration and Army attended the event.

Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairman Jammu; ULB & PRI representatives, prominent citizens and local people in large number were present.

Stable Govt with...

including some opposition MPs in Parliament, who questioned the use of 'Nari Shakti Vandan' terminology by the government for the bill, he asked should not women of the country be paid obeisance and their honour enhanced.

The BJP is set to make the passage of the bill a major talking point of its poll campaign for the five state elections expected in November-December and the Lok Sabha elections likely in April-May next year; more so as those women voters who are persuaded by the welfare factor rather than social faultlines are seen to have emerged as an important voting bloc in recent years.

The prime minister said it was the BJP's good fortune that its government got the opportunity to pass the bill. The party's commitment made for the last three decades has now been fulfilled, he said.

Some decisions have the power to change a country's fate, Modi said, describing the proposed law as one such measure that will infuse new confidence among women and multiply India's strength to advance.

A new history was made on September 20 and 21, Modi said, referring to the days the bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and then by the Rajya Sabha. "It was our good fortune that people gave this government the chance to do so," he said, adding future generations will discuss this.

It was made possible because people elected a strong, stable and decisive government that has a full majority, the prime minister asserted. It was passed with record support and a long-held dream was finally fulfilled, he said.

This shows how the country takes big decisions where there is a decisive government enjoying a strong majority, Modi said. The self-confidence of women is touching the sky and their entry into decision-making will multiply the country's strength to power ahead, he added.

This is proof of fulfilling "Modi's guarantee" that he will usher in a new era of women-led development, the prime minister said amid loud cheers from the women present at the BJP headquarters.

Citing a number of his government's schemes and decisions for women's welfare, Modi said it has made every attempt to unshackle women with programmes for their security, respect and prosperity.

"From family to panchayat, from the economy to education and entrepreneurship, our sisters and daughters are doing unprecedented work in every field today. Women have played a significant role in taking India to the moon. Be it in startups, self-help groups or social campaigns, the role and participation of women are becoming the strength of the country," he said.

BJP president J P Nadda said governments earlier practised appeasement politics but it was Modi who has worked to empower women with decisions like the ban on triple talaq men and the passage of women's reservation bill.

The passage of 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' is a historic moment which became possible only because of Modi's foresight, unbreakable determination and firm resolve, he said.

A large number of women MPs of the party, including Union ministers like Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani, were present during the event.

EP Dept reclaims...

General J&K also asked the Deputy Custodians to liaise with the District Administration to identify evacuee land/property which has potential for commercial purpose including other lands which may be fenced and sign boards installed to avoid any encroachment.

He further asked that the land not viable for departmental use be put to open auction through e-auction mode for which the department has already developed an e-auction portal.

Acting upon the directions of Custodian General J&K, the Evacuee Property Department Jammu through Dy. Custodian Samba has in the first instance reclaimed the possession of Evacuee Land measuring 3 kanal Land under Khasra No. 722 alongwith structures raised thereon. As per the department the person was occupying the Evacuee Property illegally, though the land in question was leased out to him but he failed to deposit the premium fixed by the department and violated the terms and conditions of the lease.

"Ample opportunity was provided to the occupant to deposit the premium as provided under the provisions of J&K Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act 2006 and on failure, the action was taken in the matter."

The Custodian General, while appreciating the action taken in the matter reiterated that the drives be undertaken by the department against the encroachers, illegal occupants and violators and may be intensified. He appealed to the general public to refrain from such acts failing which action as warranted under law will be taken against such violators which may include punishment with imprisonment in terms of Section 18 of J&K Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act 2006 Svt.

Couple among 4...

he said. He said four people died during treatment who have been identified as Mohammad Niyaz Bhat, son of Ghulam Qadir, Maroof Ahmad Bhat, son of Niyaz Ahmad Bhat, Mubeena Begum, wife of Niyaz Ahmad Bhat and Absha Banoo, daughter of Niyaz Ahmad Bhat-all residents of Doda while the injured have been identified as Ghulam Qadir Bhat, son of Mohammad Abdullah, Muntaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Qadir and Melvish Akhter, daughter of Niyaz Ahmad Bhat all from Doda.

He said the driver along with the truck vehicle fled away from the spot. "Police is making efforts to track the truck and the driver. First Information

Report (FIR) has been registered under number 206/23 under section 279, 337 IPC at the Qazigund Police Station and further investigation has been started," official said.

Denying prisoners premature...

and who bears little resemblance to the person they were years earlier? It is tempting to say that they are no longer the same person.

"Yet, the insistence of guidelines, obtusely, to not look beyond the red lines drawn by it and continue in denial to consider the real impact of prison good behaviour, and other relevant factors (to ensure that such individual has been rid of the likelihood of causing harm to society) results in violation of Article 14 (equaity before law) of the Constitution," the bench said.

Excluding the relief of premature release to prisoners, who have served extremely long periods of incarceration, not only "crushes their spirit, and instils despair, but signifies society's resolve to be harsh and unforgiving", the court said.

The bench noted that Rule 376 of the Kerala Prisons and Correctional Services (Management) Rules, 2014 prescribes that prisoners shall be granted remission for keeping peace and good behaviour in jail.

The man sought a direction to the state government to prematurely release him as he has been in custody (actual imprisonment) for over 26 years and served a sentence of over 35 years (including over 8 years of remission earned).

While ordering release of the convict with immediate effect, the apex court said as per the records produced by the state, the man has earned over 8 years of remission, which demonstrates his good conduct in jail.

The discussions in the minutes of the meetings of the jail advisory board are also positive and find that he is hardworking, disciplined, and a reformed inmate, the bench noted.

It said redirecting the petitioner, who has already served over 26 years of incarceration (and over 35 years of punishment with remission), to undergo consideration before the advisory board again and thereafter, the state government for premature release would be a "cruel outcome, like being granted only a salve to fight a raging fire, in the name of procedure".

The bench said the prison laws in India encapsulate a strong underlying reformati- tive purpose.

The practical impact of a guideline, which bars consideration of a premature release request by a convict who has served over 20 or 25 years, based entirely on the nature of crime committed in the distant past, would be to crush the life force out of such individual altogether, it said.

Giving an example, the bench said a 19 or 20 year old individual convicted of a crime which finds place in the list barring premature release altogether would mean that such a person will never see freedom and die within the prison walls.

"There is a peculiarity of continuing to imprison one who committed a crime years earlier who might well have changed totally since that time. This is the condition of many people serving very long sentences. They may have killed someone (or done something much less serious, such as commit a narcotic drug related offence or be serving a life sentence for other non-violent crimes) as young individuals and remain incarcerated 20 or more years later," it said.

Two candidates under...

by the medical board of the college. One male student and one female student were found ineligible on the basis of disability though both of them have been issued disability certificates by the Poonch CMO.

The basis of 40 percent disability is considered permanent. It has been reported that both of them have passed the NEET exam on the basis of disability. Sources said that for the first time in the history of GMC, cases of fake disability certificates have been detected.

According to Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of GMC Jammu, the medical board of the college has found both the students ineligible under disability category. "We have recommended BOPEE to cancel the disability eligibility of both the candidates and have sought two new seats", he said.

BOPEE Controller Dr Sumil Gupta says that the GMC administration has recommended to cancel the disability eligibility of the two candidates and we are working on it.

Accordingly, two new candidates will be sent to GMC for admission. In comparison to last year, GMC Jammu has got eight less seats than allotted for the year 2023 and 24. This year MBBS admissions are taking place on 172 seats. Of these, four seats are reserved on the basis of disability. Last year, GMC had admitted candidates to 184 seats instead of the prescribed 180 MBBS seats.

Taking strict cognizance of this, the National Medical Commission has reduced eight seats this year. However, the GMC administration and Jammu and Kashmir government are making efforts to restore the earlier four additional seats and the reduced seats.

LS speaker warns...

the speaker has warned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader of strict action if such behaviour is repeated.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had expressed regret in the House immediately after Bidhuri made the objectionable remarks on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, the BJP has issued a show cause notice to Ramesh Bidhuri for his use of objectionable words against Balujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali.

BJP sources said the party has sought a reply from the South Delhi MP for his use of unparliamentary words.

PVC Capt Bana...

ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS 2023) campaign.

SHS 2023 is being celebrated from 15th September to 2nd October aiming to generate mass movement through community participation to reinforce the concept of Sanitation as everyone's business; and as a prelude for the Swachh Bharat Diwas (2nd October) with nationwide participation.

Theme of SHS-2023 is 'Garbage Free India' with focus on visual cleanliness and welfare of SafaiMitras. The focus of these swachhata drives is on high footfall public places like bus stands, railway stations, cantonment boards, beaches, tourist places, zoos, national parks and sanctuaries, historical monuments, heritage sites, river fronts, ghats, drains and nallahs.

Director said that the "War Against Waste" initiative aims to address the pressing issues of waste management and environmental conservation in rural J&K. The Param Vir Chakra Recipient Captain Bana Singh joining the cause will raise aware-

established near Tengbal Crossing intercepted a vehicle (Tata Indigo Manza Car) bearing registration No. PB08BT-5230 with two persons on board. During search, officers were able to recover 10 Kgs of Poppy Straw like contraband substance filled in two nylon Sacs from the said vehicle. They have been identified as Surjit Singh son of Dula Singh resident of Raipur Gujjra Bitlan Jalandhar Punjab and Abid Ahmad Ganie son of Abdul Aziz Ganie resident of Frisal. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in commission of crime has also been seized.

In Handwara, a police party led by SHO PS Qalamabad under the supervision of SDPO Handwara at a checkpoint established at Qalamabad market intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee but was apprehended tactfully. During search, 200 grams of charas like substance concealed within maize covers was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Nadeem Ahmed Mir, son of Gh Rasool Mir, resident of Chanjmola Zachaldara Handwara. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station Qalamabad where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation has been initiated.

Three notorious thieves arrested; gold, silver ornaments, cash recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Under the guidance of SSP Samba, Benam Tosh, Police has achieved success by solving two theft cases registered at Police Station Samba, arresting three notorious thieves and recovering stolen items including gold, silver ornaments worth rupees two lacs approx. and cash amounting to Rs 5,500.

The arrested thieves have been identified as Manzoor Ahmed alias Paphu s/o Bashir Ahmed r/o Chak Manga Gujjran district Samba, Alaf Din alias Sadam s/o Ghulam Hussain r/o Chak Manga Gujjran district Samba and Amrik Chand s/o Kaku Ram r/o Billawar district Kathua. Guru Ravi Dass Ji Temple theft case of Diani Samba and Chak Manga Gujjran Samba theft case have been worked out with these arrests.

Thieves Manzoor Ahmed alias Paphu and Alaf Din alias Sadam have been



ness, promote sustainable practices, and inspire local communities to actively participate in waste reduction and preservation of the J&K natural splendor.

Captain Singh, whose distinguished military service has been widely recognized for valor and dedication, now takes on a new mission - a mission to protect and preserve the pristine beauty of Jammu & Kashmir by leading the charge against waste and pollution.

As the Ambassador for the "War Against Waste," Captain Bana Singh brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the cause. Having served on the front lines to defend the nation, his dedication to safeguarding the environment is unwavering.

While addressing a mammoth gathering here during the SHS 2023 program, Captain Singh expressed his enthusiasm for this new role, saying, "Just as I dedicated my life to defending our country, I am now committed to defending our environment. Jammu & Kashmir's natural beauty is a national treasure, and we must ensure it remains pristine for generations to come."

Around 2000 people including students, sports persons, NCC cadets, PRIs, prominent people of adjoining areas, officials and shopkeepers participated in the Swachhata pledge followed by a cycle race and painting competition.

The director awarded the top performers of the cycle race and painting competition.

Others present on the occasion were Sanna Khan, Deputy Director, Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K, Preeti Sharma ACD Jammu, SDM, R S Pura, Rajni; BDO R. S. Pura and other officials.

Kashmiri people always...

the Mirwaiz said. "This can be a geographical issue for some, but it is foremost a human issue for the people of J-K. We have to rise above the considerations of geography or area and understand the human values and relationships and then move forward towards the resolution of the issues," he added.

The Hurriyat chairman, while referring to the recent statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Ukraine that this is not an era of war, said the sentiment holds true.

"We have always believed and participated in efforts of resolution through an alternative to violent means which is dialogue and reconciliation. We have personally suffered for pursuing this route.

"We have no personal ambition but to represent the interests and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are our basic concern and people want settlement and peace. We want the issue to be resolved in a peaceful manner so that people are rid of further difficulties," he said, adding, a new phase of peace and prosperity can start after resolving the issues.

CS review Development...

of Tourist Facilities in Mantalai were directed to complete their work within one month. Additionally, the Director of Tourism was instructed to develop a District Tourism plan. The revenue Department was asked to complete Geo referencing by the end of October 2023.

In the review of RDD sector projects, the ACD was asked to enhance coverage under MGNREGA and organize competitions related to Amrit Sarovar. The Traffic department was instructed to install CCTV cameras on the National Highway. District Sports officers were directed to organize games and activities at the panchayat, block, and district levels to promote participation.

The General Manager of DIC was tasked with facilitating unemployed youth in establishing their businesses in the district, while the DC was instructed to monitor the PM Poshan program in government schools.

Chief Secretary commended the efforts of the Police department in creating awareness about the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (Drug-Free Campaign) in the district and reiterated the commitment of the UT administration to provide clean governance. He urged officers to work with dedication and honesty, stressing the importance of inter-departmental coordination in addressing public issues. The officers were directed to complete projects within the specified timeframes.

During a review of road progress in the PMGSY and PWD sectors, the Chief Secretary urged authorities to expedite work and meet the targets assigned to them on time. He also reviewed the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission and emphasized the need to accelerate its completion.

Subsequently, the Chief Secretary interacted with BDC Chairpersons and DDC members at the DC Office Complex in Udhampur. The purpose of this interaction was to evaluate the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and obtain feedback from PRIs.

DDC Chairperson Lal Chand, Vice Chairperson DDC Juhi Manhas Pathania besides BDCs and DDCs were present. PRI members presented various issues and demands for the development of their respective areas. They also submitted a memorandum outlining these demands for the district's development.

Chief Secretary attentively listened to their concerns and assured that all issues would be carefully considered for timely resolution.

Indus water dispute...

expert appointed on India's request under the aegis of the Indus Waters Treaty and was attended by representatives of India and Pakistan, the MEA said.

"India's participation in this meeting is in line with India's consistent, principled stand that as per the graded mechanism provided for in the Indus Waters Treaty, the neutral expert proceedings are the only valid proceedings at this juncture," it added.

"It is for this reason that India has taken the Treaty-consistent decision to not participate in the parallel proceedings being conducted by an illegally constituted Court of Arbitration on the same set of issues pertaining to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects," the ministry said.

The MEA said the neutral expert proceedings are ongoing and expected to continue for some time.

"India is committed to engaging in a manner that supports the resolution of issues in accordance with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty," it said.

India has not cooperated with the CoA process to resolve the dispute.

According to India, the start of the two concurrent processes to resolve the dispute violates the provision of the three-step graded mechanism prescribed in the Indus Waters Treaty.

India has been pushing for the resolution of the dispute through the neutral expert proceedings.

arrested in theft case of Chak Manga Gujjran, Samba in which gold, silver ornaments and cash were stolen and FIR No.223/2023 u/s 457/380 IPC was registered at Police Station Samba through Police Post Rakh Amb Talli whereas thief Amrik Chand has been arrested in Guru Ravi Dass Ji Temple theft case of Diani, Samba in which cash was stolen and FIR No. 228/2023 U/S 454/380 IPC was registered at Police Station Samba.

The arrests have been made by police team headed by SHO Police Station Samba Daljit Singh, ASI Balbir Kumar of PP Supwal, ASI Ramesh Chander of PP Rakh Amb/Talli and Incharge Police Post Rakh Amb/Talli PSI Davinder Singh under the supervision of Dy SP Garu Ram and Additional SP Samba SurinderChoudhary.

Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Benam Tosh said that one hundred thirty three (133) thieves have been arrested and seventy (70) theft cases solved by Samba police in eight months and huge stolen property including cash, gold and silver ornaments have been recovered. Police is conducting in depth investigations with utmost sincerity in all theft cases and fastly heading towards solving all under investigation theft cases in the district.

Body found under suspicious circumstances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A child named Shubham Kumar was missing from his home in the Domana area of Jammu and was later found dead under suspicious circumstances near Choi. The police registered a case and initiated an investigation into the matter. Further details and the cause of the child's death will likely be revealed as the investigation in progresses.

Two smugglers arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Janipur police arrested two smugglers who were in possession of heroin. The police recovered a total of 45 grams of heroin from the two individuals.

The arrest was made based on information received by the police about the presence of smugglers in the area. In response to the information, the police set up a checkpoint in the area to intercept the smugglers. During a vehicle check at the checkpoint, the police discovered the heroin in the possession of the two smugglers. The arrested individuals have been identified as Rinku Massi and Ajay Kumar. The police have initiated an investigation into the case to gather more information and evidence. Further details about the case and any potential charges against the smugglers will be determined as the investigation in progress.